

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to entry of this Amendment, the application included claims 1-23. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18 and 20 have been amended and claims 6, 14 and 21 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Hence, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-20, 22 and 23 stand pending for examination.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 7,013,315 to Boothby ("Boothby").

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the pending rejections, the Applicants have amended all pending independent claims to conclusively avoid the teachings of the cited reference. Boothby does not teach or suggest extracting related information from flat files as recited in the claims herein. For example, Boothby does not teach "receiving a user designation of at least first and second electronic files, wherein the first and second electronic files comprise two-dimensional files, each having a plurality of fields and a plurality of records, and wherein the first and second electronic files have in common at least one common field in which similar data is stored for each record in each of the first and second electronic files; receiving a user input that designates one of the at least one common fields to be a key segment; sorting the records of the first and second electronic files based on the key segment; comparing key segment data of the first and second electronic files; upon each occurrence of a match of key segment data of a record in the first electronic file to key segment data of a record in the second electronic file, creating a record in a temporary electronic file, wherein the record in the temporary file includes a copy of the matching key second data from the first and second electronic files; also upon each occurrence of a match of key segment data of a record in the first electronic file to key segment data of a record in the second electronic file, copying additional data from the first electronic file and the second electronic file into the record in the temporary file." Hence, claim 1 is believed to be allowable, at least for the foregoing reasons.

Claims 10 and 18 include similar elements and are believed to be allowable, at least for the foregoing reasons. The remaining claims depend from one of these claims and are believed to be allowable, at least for the reasons stated above.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 10, 2007

/Irvin E. Branch/

Irvin E. Branch

Reg. No. 42,358

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor

San Francisco, CA 94111-3834

Tel: 303-571-4000

Fax: 415-576-0300

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